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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

W. E. BREEDS, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1959.

To The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

For the first time in these reports, I have referred to the potential danger to the public health from radiation hazards and the vigilance which will have to be exercised by Environmental Health Authorities on this subject.

I am indebted to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect of the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burt, for his co-operation and assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. Burt

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 8.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1959 - £78,963

Production of a penny rate: 1958/59 - £265 (estimate)
1959/60 - £290 (estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,780

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative Rates	
				(a) Shaftesbury R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	61	79	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.4		
Legitimate	58	76			
Illegitimate	3	3		16.6	16.4

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	2	} Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 27.7		
(All legitimate)				27.7	21.6

DEATHS.

Total	40	71	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.3		
				10.7	11.7

Deaths in infants under one year	2	2	} Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 28.7		
(All legitimate)				28.7	22.5

	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	3	1	1	2
" " Other Cancer	20	10	10	-
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	10	13	15	16
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease	36	38	-	-
" " Influenza	Nil	1	3	2
" " Pneumonia	8	1	3	5
" " Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	3	1	1
" " Suicide	1	1	2	2
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	2	Nil	Nil	1

B. Nature of the District.

The District is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham. The principal industries and trades of the district are of a mixed nature which includes brewing, glue and fertilizer mixing, brick making, timber works, glove manufacturing and the production of dried milk products. There are two large bacon factories in the district and also The National Stud.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal preventive health services in the District are provided by the Dorset County Council and these have been adequate and efficient.

The County Council, through the agency of the Gillingham Ambulance Committee and the St. John Ambulance Association in Shaftesbury, has provided the local ambulance facilities.

The laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Salisbury and Dorchester Laboratories.

Prophylactic Innoculations.

Preventive inoculation against infectious disease is the responsibility of the County Council, through its School Medical and Child Welfare services and the Private Medical Practitioner service.

The normal programme for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, small pox and tetanus was interfered with by the demands of the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

Poliomyelitis.

1,660 of those eligible for treatment received the two primary inoculations during the year.

As no private medical practitioner in the district undertook treatments, the whole burden of treatment fell upon the County medical staff.

It is estimated that at least 70% of the children in the age group 0 - 15 years had received primary treatment by the end of the year.

Diphtheria.

92 children received the two primary treatments and 112 'booster' treatments.

Whooping Cough.

109 children received the three primary treatments and 18 'booster' treatments.

Tetanus.

23 children received the three primary treatments and three a 'booster' treatment.

Small pox.

102 persons were vaccinated against small pox (being 70% of the number of babies born during the preceding year) and one person was revaccinated.

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time)

-

Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods (Full time)	-	W.E. Breeds, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.
Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods	-	L.F. Warren, M.A.P.H.I.
Meat Inspector (Part time)	-	Lt.Col. T. Sealy-Green M.R.C.V.S.
Clerical Staff	-	One clerk (Full time)

WATER SUPPLY.

Quantity. Supplies throughout the year were adequate to meet the demand.

Quality. The bacteriological quality of the principal supplies remained satisfactory.

No routine samples were submitted for chemical examination during the year.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of Sample</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	8	All Satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	22	18 Satisfactory 2 Unsatisfactory 2 Suspect.
Motcombe	11	10 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	5	3 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory 1 Suspect
Other Supplies	25	24 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory.

New Works carried out during the year. No new works in connection with supplies in the Rural District have been carried out, but work has started on a scheme (Southern iv) which comprises the construction of a Pumping Station at Boyne Hollow, a suction main to connect the existing reservoirs at Boyne Hollow to the pumping station, and also the construction of a rising main from the pumping station up to, and to connect into, the mains of Shaftesbury Borough. When this work is completed, it will be possible to pump the maximum amount to Shaftesbury Borough i.e. the maximum for which the scheme, based on Stubhampton, was designed. The work is well advanced, the pumping plant being on the site ready for installation, and it is hoped it will be completed during the current financial year.

Remedial work has been carried out in the No. 2 borehole at Stubhampton in an effort to overcome the sand difficulties which were experienced during August 1957.

New Connections made during the year:-

New Connections made during the year:--

Domestic Supplies	19
Agricultural Supplies	17
Other Supplies	4

Distribution.

There are 3,233 houses in the Rural District of which -

3,099 are supplied with water from the Council's sources.

3 are supplied by Shaftesbury Borough Council.

2 are supplied by Mere & Tisbury R.D.C.

2 are supplied by Sturminster R.D.C.

so that 3,106 have a piped supply from public sources, as details given below -

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>No. Supplied with Water.</u>
Ashmore	62	62
Bourton	220	172
Buckhorn Weston	112	109
Cann	136	131
Compton Abbas	78	71
East Orchard	38	36
East Stour	134	134
Fontmell Magna	211	185
Gillingham (L.A.)	951	951
Gillingham (N.L.A.)	258	249
Iwerne Minster	165	161
Kington Magna	113	113
Margaret Marsh	15	15
Melbury Abbas	99	91
Motcombe	253	248
Silton	49	47
Stour Provost	171	170
Sutton Waldron	61	60
Todber	37	33
West Orchard	24	23
West Stour	46	38
	<u>3,233</u>	<u>3,099</u>

From the foregoing it will be noted that apart from the parishes of Bourton and Fontmell Magna, a high percentage of the properties are supplied with water from the Council's mains. At Bourton quite a number are supplied from Mr. S.C. Hannam's private supply, and a number have their own supplies. At the present time practically all the houses within the limits of the supply controlled by the Council, are in fact supplied. At Fontmell Magna, the difference in the number of houses and the number supplied by the Council would almost certainly be accounted for and supplied by the Fontmell Magna Private Supply, the area of which is limited, and as properties change hands they almost always come over to the Council's supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works were put in hand during the year. Delays due to unresolved negotiations with regard to contributions payable to the Council under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937 delayed the commencement of the Gillingham Sewerage Scheme.

No further consideration has been given to providing the very necessary schemes in other parishes, and it is hoped that early consideration will be given to this matter.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in preceding years. A weekly

collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The quantity of salvage collected during the year amounted to 73 tons compared with 91 tons in the preceding year. The income received from the sale of the salvage amounted to £546.10s.9d. compared with £487.18s.9d. in the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of Premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	34	1
Total	41	34	1

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	1	2	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	4	3	3
Total	5	5	3

No. of Outworkers = 15.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath in the district to which the public have access, although one is at present under construction at Gillingham, which will prove a considerable amenity to the District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Licenses in connection with the occupation of six moveable dwellings were granted during the year.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One case of flea infestation and one case of fly infestation were dealt with, D.D.T. spray being the method of choice.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent

Committee whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset Area and the Beaminster Rural District. Six hundred and eighty one inspections and five hundred and thirty seven treatments were carried out during the year by the rodent operators.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

During the year there was no shop in the district required to be licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above-mentioned Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspections of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year which were found to be satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

The existence of aged persons, living under unsatisfactory conditions and who really require care and attention and who require institutional care, are known. Some of these people will not voluntarily accept such care and attention, preferring to live in their own home even though by all accepted standards of hygiene their conditions are most unsatisfactory and danger to their welfare may be quite real.

It is considered that the old persons wishes and desires must be given first consideration in such cases and, unless there appears to be a very real danger to other people as a result, these cases are not reported to you for statutory action to be taken with a view to their compulsory removal to an institution.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district	3,192
<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -</u>	
Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	96
No. of inspections made	104
No. of informal notices served	73
No. of informal notices complied with	18
No. of statutory notices served	4
No. of statutory notices complied with	13
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	27
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
Demolition Or Closing Orders made	17
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	4
Reconditioning	-
Other action	6

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

Steady progress was maintained during the year in dealing with unfit houses, although only twenty seven houses were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1958 compared with forty-seven in the preceding year.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949) and (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Thirty nine owners (compared with twenty seven in the preceding year) have taken advantage of the provision of grants under the Housing Act, 1949 for the improvement of property.

New Houses.

For the second year in succession no new houses were provided by your Council. Twenty one houses were built by private enterprise.

Forty six families were rehoused by the Council during the year.

At the end of the year there were ninety eight applicants on the Council's waiting list compared with one hundred and sixty nine at the beginning of the year.

Toward the end of the year the Council gave consideration to further housing needs in the District and with the imminent commencement of the Gillingham sewerage scheme it does appear that there will soon be a resumption in the housing programme particularly toward the provision of more and suitable, dwellings for old people.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council under regulation 14
of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk)
Regulations, 1949 _____ 7

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under
regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)
(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 _____ 7

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to
registration under Regulation 8 of the Milk and
Dairies Regulations, 1949. _____ 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration
under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies
Regulations, 1949 _____ 9

Samples.

No. of samples of Milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

Tuberculin Tested	-	14
Pasteurised	-	129

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	33
Canteens - School and workplace	5
Confectioners	9
Meat and Fish	10
Grocers	6
Mixed Stores	30
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	5
Food factories, slaughterhouses and canteens	10
Stalls	1
Other	19

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the
Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice-Cream	51
Sausages & Prepared meats	9
Fish and Chips	1

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene
Blue Test

40

No. of premises inspected during the year

91

No. of inspections carried out

82

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

There is only one ice-cream manufacturer in the District. The
above Regulations are found to work satisfactorily in respect of making
ice-cream on these premises.

The majority of ice-cream sold, comes into the district pre-packed.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping Food etc.

Such byelaws are operative within the District.

There is an increasing tendency for food on sale to be pre-wrapped
and an increasing use being made of 'frigidaire' storage - this is a
pleasing development.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses.

Three licensed slaughterhouses were in operation during the year, two
of which were in connection with bacon factories, the remaining one being
an abattoir dealing with calves, sheep and lambs from which only a small
proportion of the carcasses are supplied to retail butchers for local
consumption.

The following table gives particulars of the total number of animals
slaughtered.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	248	374	6,507	4,088	113,231
Number Inspected	81	285	246	67	13,483
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	10	1	417
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1,671
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	-	-	.153%	.024%	1.84%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	6	-	253
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	4	-	-	3,890
Percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis	1.209%	2.67%	.092%	-	3.65%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

It is not yet possible to report that the meat inspection service in your district attains a satisfactory standard in so far as the majority of carcasses slaughtered are not examined by your Meat Inspector or by persons trained by and under his close supervision.

During the year your Public Health Committee received my recommendation together with that of your Senior Public Health Inspector with regard to a scheme for a comprehensive meat inspection service throughout your district. Consideration of the alternative schemes was postponed pending the time when the most suitable means of carrying out meat inspection at bacon factories had been determined.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.

Most of the condemned carcasses go to processing plants. Livers are disposed of to local mink farms. A proportion is disposed of by burning.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,908
Total No. of informal notices served	143
Total No. of informal notices complied with	82
Total No. of statutory notices served	4
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	14
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -	Disease	Total Cases Notified
	Whooping Cough	5
	Measles	216
	Scarlet Fever	3
	Poliomyelitis (P)	1
	Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Tuberculosis -

	New Cases Notified	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	Nil.	Nil.

Food Poisoning.

One case of Salmonella food poisoning was notified during the year.

F. RADIATION HAZARDS.

Artificial Radiation Hazards.

During the year I considered it necessary to draw your attention to a new threat to the public health, which as yet is more potential than real, but one which can be expected to increase year by year. You accepted my recommendation that your Public Health Officers should be afforded every opportunity to enlarge their knowledge of this subject and accepted in principle a proposal for monitoring your district for background radiation. Up to the end of the year I did not consider it necessary to make any further recommendation with regard to a local monitoring service, whilst awaiting the results of Government and other action in this matter.

The position will, however, require to be watched very carefully to ensure that Local Authorities (and their Officers) are allowed to take their proper place (as environmental health authorities) in the control of artificial radiation hazards.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

